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by Dr. Harold Gifford. Four artists will be at the station during the present year and will devote especial attention to recording the coloring of creatures too delicate to bear transportation alive to a temperate zone.

Among the incidental results of the work of the station is a rich and continuous supply of living animals to the New York Zoological Park, including such animals as the jaguar, ocelot, capybara, agouti, anaconda, and jabiru. This season a very much larger collection of living animals will be made and sent north.

HENRY FAIRFIELD OSBORN

PRESIDENT OF THE NEW YORK

ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY,

May 6, 1920

### SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

#### COLLECTIONS OF THE NATIONAL MUSEUM

THE annual report of the director of the U. S. National Museum states that the total number of specimens acquired by the museum during the year was approximately 526,845. Received in 1,198 separate accessions, they were classified and assigned as follows: Department of anthropology, 12,333; zoology, 442,383; botany, 40,357; geology and mineralogy, 4,750; paleontology, 26,050; textiles, woods, medicines, foods, and other miscellaneous animal and vegetable products, 884; mineral technology, 62; and National Gallery of Art, 26. As loans for exhibition, 3,096 articles were also obtained, mainly for the divisions of history and American archeology and the Gallery of Art.

Material to the extent of 539 lots was received for special examination and report.

The distribution of duplicates, mainly to schools and colleges for educational purposes, aggregated 3,441 specimens, of which 1,378 were contained in seven regular sets of fossil invertebrates averaging 47 specimens each and six regular sets of mollusks of 174 specimens each. The balance comprised 19 special lots, consisting of marine invertebrates, reptiles, fishes, fossils, minerals and ores, stone implements, and basketry specimens.

In making exchanges for additions to the

collections, a total of 5,227 duplicate specimens were distributed. These consisted largely of plants.

Material sent out to specialists for study on behalf of the Museum amounted to 19,851 specimens, mainly biological.

In furtherance of its extensive historical exhibits, the Museum, early in the year, through cooperation with the War and Navy Departments, undertook the assembling and installation of a collection of materials connected with the World War, which may ultimately, require a separate building.

#### APPROPRIATIONS FROM THE HENRY DRAPER FUND OF THE NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

At its recent meeting the National Academy of Sciences made the following appropriations on the recommendation of the committee on the Henry Draper Fund:

\$400 to S. A. Mitchell, of the University of Virginia, to complete the purchase of a measuring microscope for use in the photographic determination of stellar parallaxes, on the basis of observations made with the 27-inch refracting telescope. The academy awarded the sum of \$250 from the Draper Fund to apply on the purchase of this instrument and the proposed grant of \$400 will complete the purchase. The microscope, costing \$650, becomes in effect the property of the academy. Professor Mitchell will devote an equivalent sum, \$400, to other needs of his parallax research.

\$300 to Joel Stebbins, professor of astronomy in the University of Illinois, to assist in the further development of the photo-electric-cell photometer.

\$400 to Frank Schlesinger, director of the Allegheny Observatory, to enable him to test an automatic zenith camera for the determination of terrestrial latitude, with the expectation that the results will be more accurate than any hitherto obtained by other means. It is proposed that this instrument be mounted temporarily at the International Latitude Observatory at Ukiah, California, where the astronomer in charge will operate it for a year or two as a labor of love. The grant is needed to install the instrument at Ukiah and to make certain auxiliary apparatus required in its operation. The Allegheny Observatory is loaning the objective and the photographic plates obtained will be measured by Dr. Schlesinger himself or under his immediate direction.